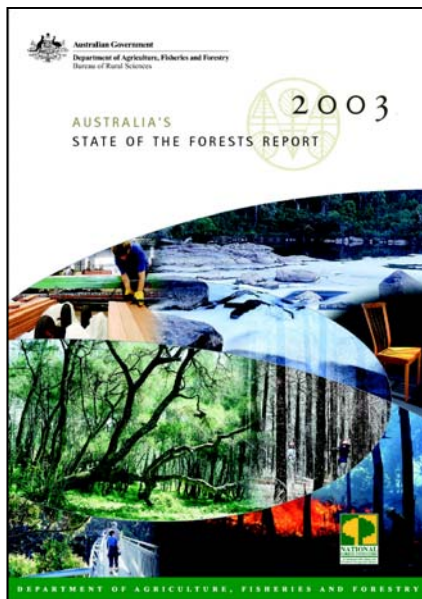




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AUSTRALIA'S STATE OF THE FORESTS REPORT 2003



and **Australia's Montréal Process
Country Report**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY



Australian Government
Bureau of Rural Sciences

BUREAU OF RURAL SCIENCES AUSTRALIA

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Australia's State of the Forests Report serves two purposes

- Nationally
 - It is Australia's second report in response to a call for reporting identified in the
 - *Ecologically Sustainable Development Strategy* (1992)
 - *National Forest Policy Statement* (1992)

- Internationally
 - Australia's first Montréal Process country report



What is the Montréal Process

- It is an international initiative along with a number of other countries to assess forests and to improve our understanding of SFM.
- There are 12 countries who are members of the Montreal process
 - the countries participating in this group span 5 continents
 - they account for 90% of the world's temperate and boreal forests.



Rationale for the Australia's State of the Forests Report 2003 and Australia's Montréal Process Country Report

To :

- provide a report on sustainable forest management
- improve the quality of information available to decision makers and the public
- better inform the forest policy debate at national and international levels



Benefits of the Montreal Process for Australia

- Provide a framework for ecologically sustainable forest management
- Supports the Regional Forest Agreement Process
- Adoption by State and Territory agencies results in
 - consistent methodologies for reporting
 - removal of duplication
- Supports certification



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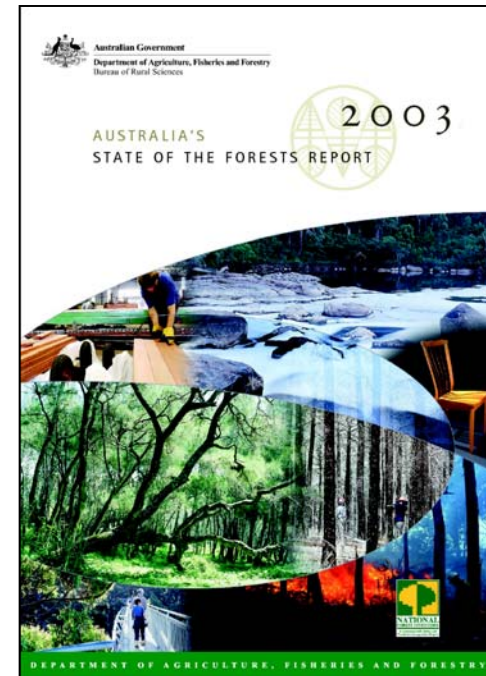
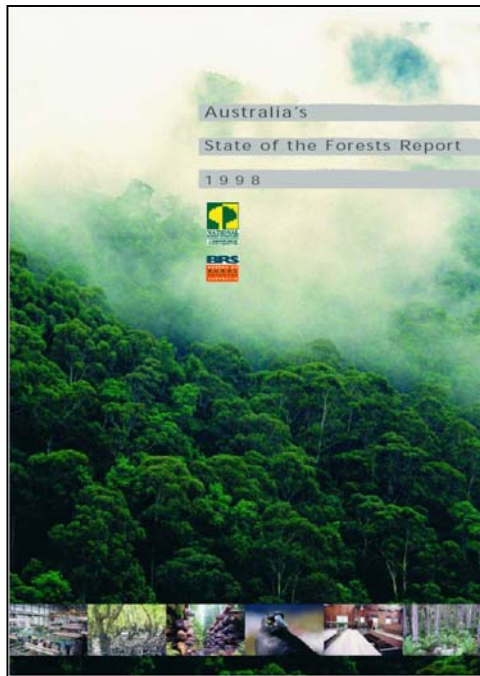
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Andrew Wilson

Coordinator - State of the Forests Report

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

What is Australia's State of the Forests Report





The Montréal Process Framework

■ Role of Criteria and Indicators

Criteria - *values that society seeks to maintain*

Indicators - *measures of change in these criteria over time*

- 7 Criteria
- 67 national (international) indicators
- 74 sub-national (Australian) indicators (include expanded and new)



Australia elected to report on all Montreal Process criteria in 2003

1. Conservation and biological diversity
2. Maintenance of productive capacity of forest ecosystems
3. Maintenance of ecosystem health and vitality
4. Conservation and maintenance of soil and water resources
5. Maintenance of forest contribution to global carbon cycles
6. Maintenance and enhancement of long term multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of society
7. Legal, institutional and economic framework for forest conservation and sustainable management



The Process for Reporting

- Data requests sent to State and Territory Agencies (February 2002. Cut-off Date – Dec 2002)
- Compilation of data and report drafting by National Forest Inventory
 - Assisted by a drafting group comprised of State and Territory and Australian Government representatives
- Review of draft by all States and Territories
- Clearance by each State and Territory of the final report



1. Conservation and biological diversity

- Ecosystem diversity
- Species diversity
- Genetic diversity





Key Findings

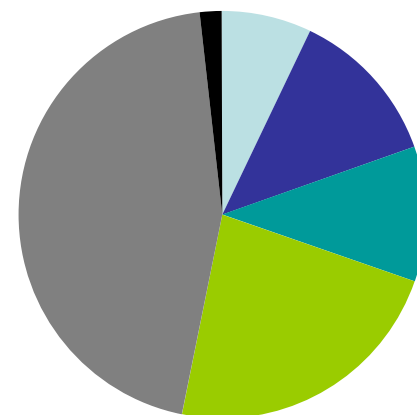
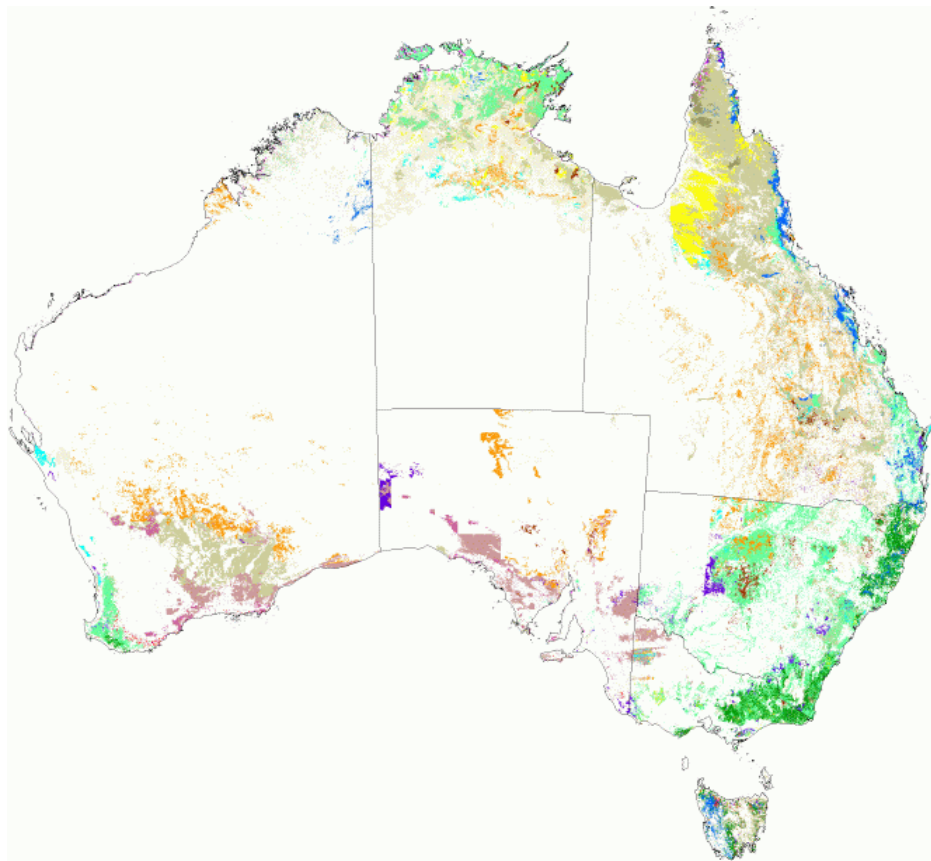
- Total area of forests 164 million hectares
 - an apparent increase of 7 million hectares since 1998
 - forest extent actually declining through agricultural land clearing

- 1% Plantations (exotic and native species)

- Native Forest
 - 63% woodland forest
 - 28% open forest
 - 3% closed forest
 - 6% forest of unknown crown cover



Forests of Australia



- 7% Multiple use forest
- 13% Nature conservation
- 8% Other crown land
- 24% Private land
- 46% Leasehold land
- 1% unresolved tenure



Key findings -

- Growth stage known for 14 million ha
 - increase from 7 million ha in 1998
- 66% of all old growth in RFA regions reserved
- 15% of forest satisfies IUCN protected areas
- 14 of 17 national forest types exceed IUCN target 10%
 - 33% of rainforest
 - 16% of all eucalypt types



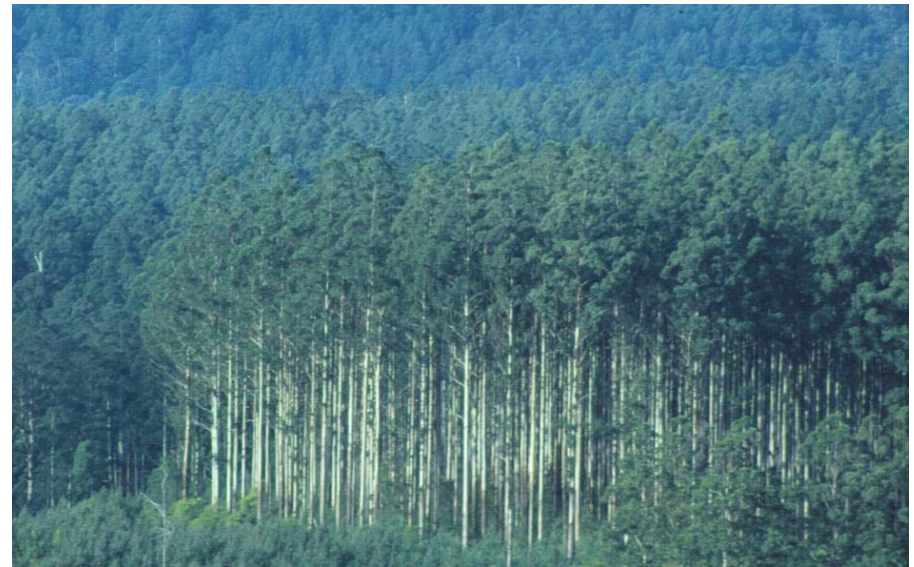
Key findings -

- Within Regional Forest Agreement regions
 - Over 2 million hectares of forest has changed tenure since 1998
 - 36% *increase* in conservation reserves (now 6.6 million ha)
 - 15% *decrease* in multiple-use forests (now 6.8 million hectares)



2. Maintenance of productive capacity of forest ecosystems

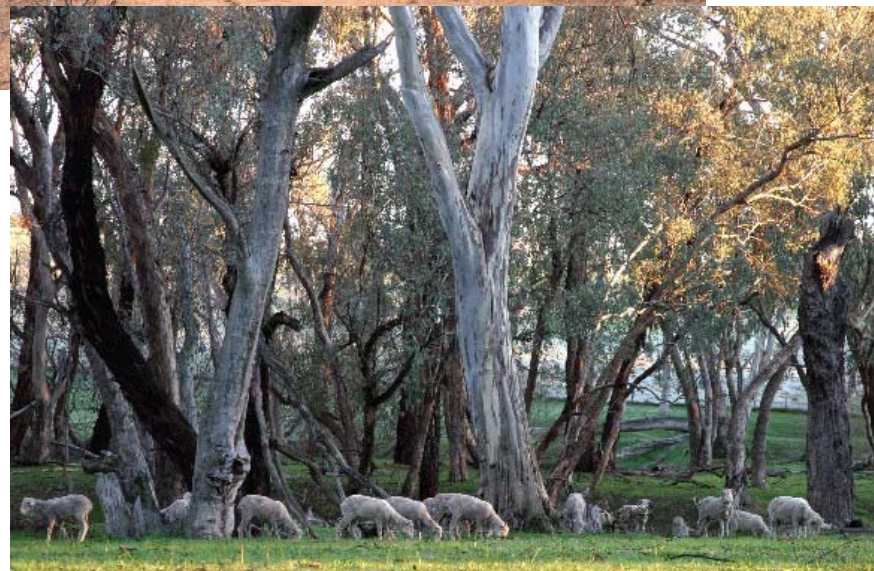
- Forest available for timber production
- Plantation extent
 - native
 - exotic



Area available for wood supply

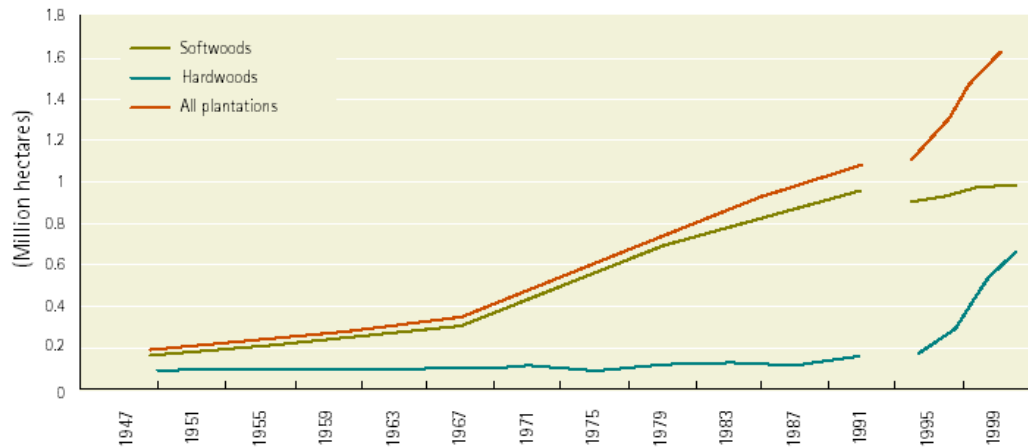
- 74% of native forests potentially (legally) available for wood supply
 - includes leasehold and private

- Area actively managed is considerably less
 - market factors
 - landowner intent
 - environmental constraints and codes of forest practice



Plantation Expansion

- The plantation area has increased by 600 000 hectares since 1994





3. Maintenance of ecosystem health and vitality

- Forest health and vitality
 - Fire
 - Pests and weeds



Key findings -

Processes or agents impacting on forested areas	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
Animal pests	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Insect pests	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Weeds	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pathogens	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Introduction of exotic biota ¹	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Clearing	-	Yes	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	-
Grazing	-	Yes	-	Yes	-	-	Yes	-
River regulation	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	-
Salinisation and soil acidification	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mining	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Climatic events	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-



4. Conservation and maintenance of soil and water resources

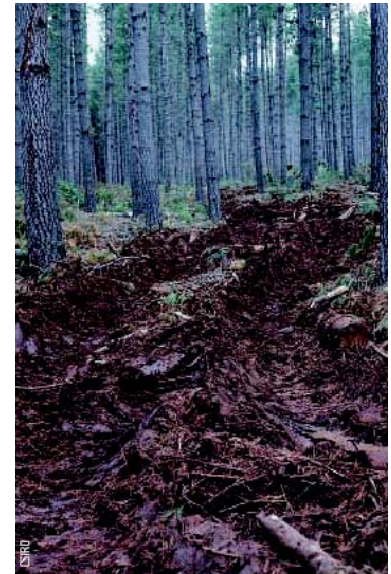
- Soil erosion
- Water quality





Key findings -

- Large areas of Australian Forests are used as protection zones
 - This may exceed 50% of the forested area in some States
- Very little national data is collected on soils and the impacts of activities in forests on soil properties.



5. Maintenance of forest contribution to global carbon cycles

- Biomass and carbon
- Forest products





Key findings -

- Australian forests contain an estimated 10 500 Mt of carbon
- Eucalypt woodlands account for 46% of the total carbon stock.
- Wood provided 40% of Australia's renewable energy in 2000 – 2001 or 2.1% of Australia's total energy supply





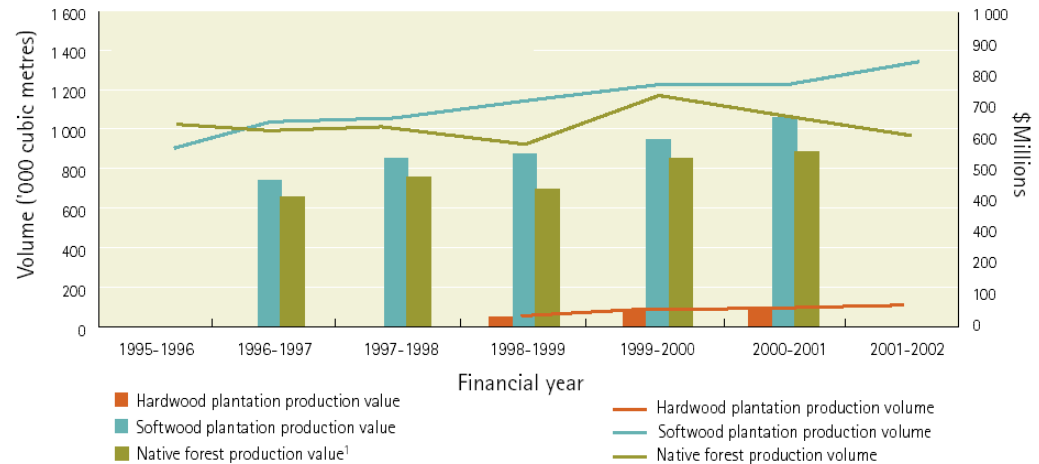
6. Maintenance and enhancement of long term multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of society

- Production and consumption
- Recreation and tourism
- Investment
- Cultural values
- Employment
- Indigenous participation



Key findings -

- 1% contribution to GDP
- Direct employment – 78 400
 - underestimate
 - regional employment
- Trade deficit \$1.7 billion (\$2.2 billion in 99-00)
- Investment in the forest sector over past decade exceeds \$6.5 billion





Key findings -

- The impact of recreation nationally is poorly understood



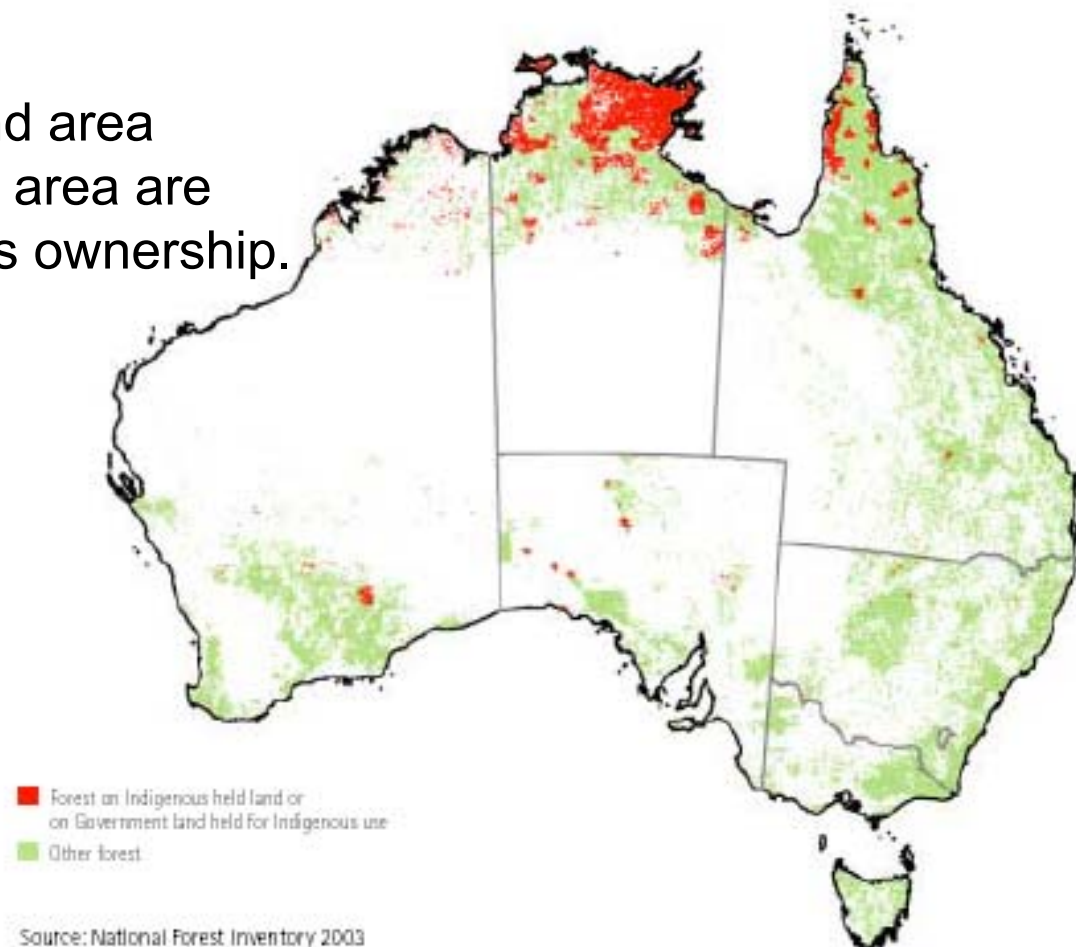
- 44% of paper products are recycled in Australia





Key findings -

- 18% of Australia's land area and 13% of the forest area are held under indigenous ownership.





7. Legal, institutional and economic framework for forest conservation and sustainable management

- Legal frameworks
- Institutional frameworks
- Economic frameworks
- Monitoring
- Research and development



Key findings -

- All States and Territories have legislation in place relevant to forest planning.
- All States and Territories have codes of practice for forest activities

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	C'wth
Biological diversity	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Productive capacity	-	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ecosystem health and vitality	-	Yes	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Soil and water	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Socio-economic	-	Yes	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Periodic policy review	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Coordination with relevant sectors	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Partly	Yes	Yes

Where information is available:

Yes: Indicates that the legislation or mechanism exists and is fairly comprehensive

Partly: Indicates that the legislation or mechanism exists but does not cover all aspects or is limited in its application.

No: Indicates that the legislation or mechanism does not exist



Capacity for reporting

- Of the 74 indicators –
 - 16 indicators
 - Good spatial and temporal data
 - 56 indicators
 - Limited coverage or data from case studies
 - 2 indicators
 - No data



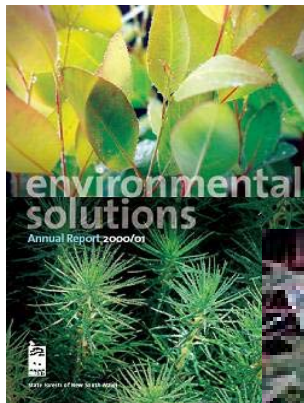
Future Challenges

- Review of the indicators
 - both domestically and Internationally
 - in line with current review of forest data needs

- Ensuring the indicators are of value to
 - States and Territories
 - Industry
 - Policy makers

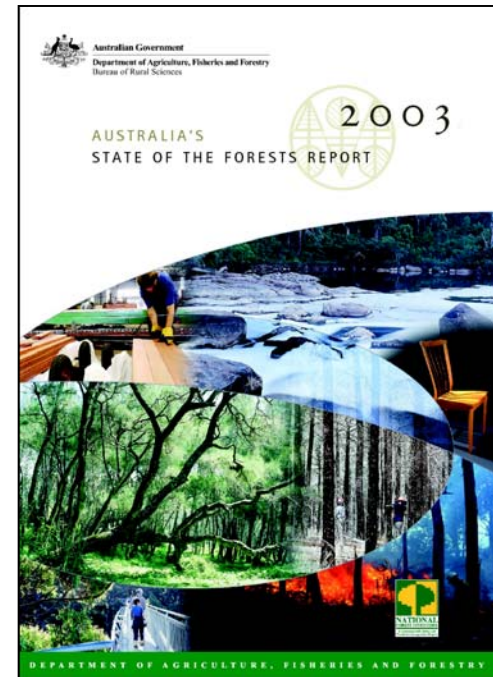


State and Territory Issues -



- Montréal Process Indicators the building block for State and Territory internal reports
- For
 - production forestry agencies
 - conservation agencies

Acknowledgements



www.affa.gov.au/stateoftheforests